




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Chief Financial Officer  
Assistant Secretary for Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20230

DATE: September 23, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Administrative Officers  
Travel Contacts

FROM: Donna Ahearn   
Chief, Travel Management Division  
Office of Management Support Services

SUBJECT: Travel Guidance for the Current and New Fiscal Year

To secure travel and transportation services prior to receiving funding for the new fiscal year, each organization must establish adequate procedures for ensuring that all year-end obligations for travel for FY 2008 and obligations for FY 2009 are made in accordance with the provisions of Title 31 of the United States Code and U.S. Government Accountability Office guidelines. Specifically, 31 U.S.C. 1341 **prohibits** an officer or employee of the U.S. Government to make or authorize an expenditure of obligation exceeding an amount available in an appropriation or fund, or to involve the Government in a contract or obligation for the payment of money before an appropriation is made.

Accordingly, employees are advised to check with their budget or finance office to determine the availability of funds **before** scheduling travel for FY 2009.

Each organization may have a unique funding appropriation; however, the following guidance is provided, as appropriate:

- Organizations using multi-year funding beyond FY 2008 may continue to authorize travel from these funds provided there is a **fund balance sufficient** to cover the travel performed. The authorized travel should be for the purpose for which the funds were appropriated; and, those bureaus are advised to state on the travel order "**approved to purchase ticket for FY09 with FY08 funds due to multi year funding/no-year funding.**"
- Organizations using single-year funding are encouraged **not to arrange or plan travel which will require tickets to be issued on or after October 1, 2008** unless statutory authorizations (i.e. charges to multi-year funding) allow otherwise. This procedure will be in effect until a continuing resolution of appropriation providing funding for the new year has been signed by the President.

### Travel Orders

All travel orders prepared in FY 2008 for travel beginning or ending in FY 2009 should be annotated to reflect the following statement:

**“Approval of travel scheduled to be accomplished on or after October 1, 2008, is contingent upon the availability of FY 2009 funds.”**

This statement shall be reflected on all travel orders until a budget is finalized and approved. Travelers **are prohibited** from providing the travel management service provider (ADTRAV) with **any** signed travel order unless funding is available.

#### **Purchase of Transportation Tickets**

Roundtrip transportation tickets for travel beginning in FY 2008 and ending in FY 2009 will be charged to the current appropriation, whether obtained using a Citibank centrally-billed-travel account or individually-billed travel card. However, if the return portion of the ticket cannot be used and a separate return ticket for travel on or after October 1, 2008 must be purchased, the FY 2009 appropriation will be charged. FY 2008 funds **will not** be used to purchase transportation that begins and ends in FY 2009.

Please note that ADTRAV cannot guarantee any fares or flights for any 2009 booking if the airline has not provided the fares or identified the contract carrier for the new fiscal year. These rates will not be made available until late September.

#### **Temporary Duty Per Diem, Mileage and Other Expenses**

Charges for per diem, mileage and other expenses are charged to the fiscal year in which the expenses are actually incurred (e.g., per diem expenses are incurred daily). Travel vouchers filed for travel that span the two fiscal years should allocate the expenses accordingly and indicate the appropriate fiscal year accounting classification codes charged as shown on the travel order. FY 2008 funds **will not** be used to pay for any travel expenses incurred on or after October 1, 2008. For example:

All per diem, mileage costs, ground transportation, and other travel-related costs that are incurred in September 2008 will be charged to the FY 2008 appropriation.

All per diem, mileage costs, ground transportation, and other travel-related costs that are incurred on or after October 1, 2008 will be charged to the FY 2009 appropriation.

#### **Permanent Change of Station Moves**

All organizations will obligate the estimated amount of all travel and transportation expenses of a transferred employee to the employee's current appropriation at the time he/she is issued a valid travel order (see 64 CG 45).

#### **Local Travel**

Local travel charged to one-year funding occurring during the end of September 2008 may be claimed in FY 2009 using FY 2008 funds.

In the event FY 2009 funding is not available and an employee is in a travel status at midnight on September 30, 2008, DOC will advise those organizations if it is necessary to have the employee return to his/her permanent duty station.

Please ensure that your employees prepare travel orders and travel vouchers in accordance with these guidelines.

If you or members of your staff have questions on this subject, please contact Lisa Singletary at (202) 482-1185.

Cc: ADTRAV